

THE

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FISHING FOR A GED.

A

P O E M.

WHEN Deacons, for their nat'ral right,
With Shop-keepers began to fight,
And Delegates, to mend their Laws
Met often, and got drunk i' th' Cause;
A violent dispute arose,
(And how 'twill end there's no one knows)
Whether a *Ged*, a fish of worth,
Should feed in *South* Loch or the *North*:
For, ever since the Council Leiges
Split on the question about Bridges,
It has been an important matter,
Whether one should make his water
In a *North* Close, or a *South*,
Or neuter cock in Luckenbooth.

THE greatest City in this Land
Was by its founders, doom'd to stand
Between two Lochs, high on a ridge,
And has but on one side a Bridge:
It looks like Beggar with one arm;
So other side took the alarm,

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And

And for a *South* Bridge, put the vote,
 Which those of *North*-side liked not.
 From hence arose debates, dissensions,
 And strife 'bout places, bribes, and pensions.
 He who turned to the *North*
 Was deemed one of little worth ;
 While he who *southed* to the D---,
 Met from the others like rebuke ;
 And many wiles and many arts,
 To bribe them back to *Northern* parts,
 Were tried :—As 'twas with G-- of late
 Who had obtain'd a Deacon's Seat.

At last St. Michael's fishing time,
 A *Ged* crept to the *Southward* clime ;
 Where caught with patriotic hook,
 He was presented to a D--- ;
 Who ponds and rivers has at will,
 Where fish may eat and drink their fill.
 This *Ged* was found a fish of flavour,
 And soon he gain'd his Grace's favour ;
 And he was set 'mong other guests
 For th' anniversary of *Beasts* ;
 Who yearly, out of *fourteen* creatures,
 Chuse *six* of *ordinary* features,
 To their assembly, while the rest,
 Whether of Fowl, or Fish, or Beast,
 Are of *extr'ordinary* note,
 And not allow'd to sit and vote ;
 But on *extr'ordinary* 'casions,
 Which puts the *extras* out of patience ;
 And, in the Courts of Law, they claim
 To be, as *ord'nars* are, the same.
 The *Ged* was deem'd of *extra* size,
 And therefore 'mong the *extras* lies.

BUT



BUT let not him who reads have doubt
 That it has truly come about
 That beasts, and fowls, and fishes now
 Can rule in Councils:—for 'tis true.
 In ancient times, among the gods
 So many beasts had their abodes,
 That some ev'n worshipped the Rat,
 While others deified the Cat;
 And beasts govern'd all human things,
 The fates of kingdoms and of kings.
 Hence 'twas the City, call'd *Dun-Edin*,
 Has bore so long to be *beast-ridden*;
 For, ev'n of late, it was not rare,
 To see a *Fox*, in Provost's Chair,
 Hold forth his paw to Bailie *Bear*,
 And whisper Bailie *Goat* i' th' ear;
 Or converse held 'twixt Bailie *Cur*,
 And Deacon *Cat*, in friendly pur;
 And *Hart* Conveener, with a smile,
 Salute the Deacon *Crocodile*.
 So if the *extras* gain their claim,
 The *Ged* may be a fish of fame:
 Therefore the other beasts will bait him.
 And either side will kindly treat him.

THE prelude of the meat and drink
 Will sometimes do without the chink,
 And any how 'twill serve to soften
 The temper; and repeated often,
 It wears out prior obligations,
 And clears the way for new sensations.

WHEN *Cur Grievando* baited hook,
 With Items out of A ---s' book,
 And threaten'd hornings, captions, prisons,
 With *squalor carceris*, and poisons;

It

The *South* one less, the *North* one more,
 Than any of them were before :
 And though, by taking of this office,
 The vote of G - - became of no use
 And 't may be said *North* gained none,
 It was to *South* the loss of one.
 But by their vaunting of this matter,
 They found that they were nothing better ;
 Before acceptance, 'twas made clear,
 That place of clavicustodier
 Was but a Beadle's. — Then G - - swore,
 He did not know so much before,
 And damn'd *Grievando's* filthy fustian,
 And in his ire, nigh to combustion ;
 He wrote a letter to my Lord,
 The Provost, — taking back his word ;
 That beadle he would not become
 To serve the best in Christendom.

YET soon his passion cool'd and then
 He to the Provost wrote again ;
 That upon new Consideration,
 Though mean the office for his station,
 Yet, if the Provost made it clear,
 It was worth thirty pounds a year,
 He would accept. But, in the ev'ning,
Pro tertio he fell a scriv'ning :
 " I find 'tis a device, my Lord,
 " To draw me in to break my word :
 " I gave the trades and delegates,
 " And bring upon me all their hates ;
 " Your thirty pounds are but a bubble,
 " To bait me from a place more noble ;
 " But no ! — I'd rather usher hearſes,
 " Than halfpence count by people's arſes.

" If ever I your Beadle be,
 " May I be hang'd on yonder tree :
 " And if I ever am caught tripping
 " Towards the *North*, I'll suffer whipping ;
 " And may the venom-spitter, *Sir J---*,
 " Anatomize me like a Surgeon ;
 " Or strip me naked to the buff,
 " With *Billingsgate* prosaic stuff,
 " And, in his Gall, declare my conscience
 " Worse than his own which he lost long since.
 " You'd have me *spotted*, *black* and *brown*,
 " And *dead* t' encrease the stink o' th' town ;
 " But I will live and *dye true blue*,
 " A colour lik'd by *Great B-----*.
 " And for the honour of my trade
 " I ever shall be—*R----- G---*."

'Twas well said Robin !—Keep your promise,
 And ever set disgrace far from us.
 For if unsteady, there's an end on't,
 We never will be independent.
 But yet so early you can waver
 'Tis but like Crotchet to a quaver,
 Whether you will stand true or no,
 But time, and only time will show.

F I N I S.

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" If ever I your Beasts be
" May I be hang'd on your neck
" And I'll be your slave in every
" To such the Law, I'll never
" And may the nation follow
" A nation like a surgeon
" Or that we asked to the day
" With such a power in hand
" And is the Bill, declare my
" Would then his own which he
" You'd have me (black and
" And what I should the king
" But I will live and die
" A colour'd by the law
" And for the honour of my
" I ever shall be - R - - - C - - -

" 'Twas well said Robin! - Keep your
" And ever the difference from us
" For a century, there's an end
" We never will be independent
" We never can be
" The day like Crochet to a day
" Whether you will find time or no
" The time, and only time will show



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